Trekking Expedition to the Twin Peaks of Abigamin and Kamet by the Army Team

2160. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army team has recently completed its trekking expedition to the Himalayan twin peaks of Abigamin and Kamet;

(b) if so, whether this expedition is considered to be a major successful expedition in recent times; and

(c) whether the necessary precautionary measures had been taken by the Ministry of Defence in carrying out this expedition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Regiment of Artillery expedition was mounted as part of their Golden Jubilee celebrations and was successfully completed.

(c) Yes, Sir. The expendition returned safely after completing their task.

Development of the Indigenous GTX Engine for the LCA

2161. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress with regard to the development of an indigenous GTX engine for the LCA; and

(b) whether Government are going in for collaboration for the KB 199 or the F404 engine for the LCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) A project on the demonstrator Model of the GTX Engine has been successfully completed. Full development of the GTX Engine is under progress. A variant of GTX to meet the LCA requirements is now being designed.

(b) Only a few engines from abroad are planned to be procured until our indigenous engine becomes available. Therefore the question of going in for collaboration at this stage does not arise.

Likely Submergence of Forest Land by Narmada Sagar Project

2162. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than forty thousand hectares of forest land is likely to be submerged if Narmada Sagar Project is implemented;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Narmada Sagar Project is likely to increase the irrigation potential only by 1,70,000 hectares; and

(c) what is Government's criterion of weighing forest loss against increase in irrigation potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This scheme would irrigate 1,41,000 ha. of land in Khargone and Khandwa Districts of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been prepared which provide for the comparative assessment of the forest and environmental losses against gains of development projects including irrigation

Harvesting of Wood in Himachal Pradesh

2163. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantity of wood being harvested in Himachal Pra-